

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-9, 14-23, 26-28, and 30 were cancelled.

Claims 10, 12, and 13 have been amended as follows:

10. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence [which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 6-18 and 19, the translated protein coding portion thereof, the mature protein coding portion thereof, the extracellular portion thereof, or the active domain thereof]of SEQ ID NO: 4, or the mature protein thereof.

12. (amended) [A]An isolated polypeptide, having metallopeptidase-like activity, comprising [at least ten consecutive amino acids from the polypeptide sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 6-18 and 19]an amino acid sequence which is at least 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

13. (amended) The polypeptide of claim 12, [comprising at least five consecutive amino acids from the polypeptide sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 4, 6-18 and 19]encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; and

(b) a polynucleotide, which hybridizes to the protein coding portion of the DNA molecule of (a) under stringent conditions, wherein said conditions are hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5M NaHPO<sub>4</sub>, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1mM EDTA at 65°C, and washing in 0.1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C.